

Talking Points: EPA and NOAA disapprove Oregon's non-point source water quality program for coastal waterways.

Background: Oregon and a number of other states have been working with two federal agencies for over ten years to assure that the states have water quality programs for their farm and forest lands that are adequate to meet water quality standards and protect fisheries. As a **result of litigation**, EPA and NOAA have been forced to make a decision now, whether current Oregon programs meet this standard. Other states are continuing to work with EPA and NOAA on their programs.

- EPA and NOAA believe that Oregon's forest practices program needs to be strengthened with regard to water quality and fisheries protections.
- The four areas that EPA and NOAA have identified as needing additional work are:
 - o Programs, including rules, protecting small and medium fish-bearing streams and non-fish bearing streams from increases in stream temperatures.
 - o Programs to identify forest roads that are causing sediment runoff to streams, decide on priorities for repair or restoration, and develop ways to fund those improvements over time.
 - o Programs to identify the areas of high landslide risk, and develop tools to reduce the risk of such landslides.
 - o Programs to assure that forest operators are complying with federal law governing the aerial application of herbicides.
- Oregon is committed to achieving the same environmental outcomes that NOAA and EPA want to achieve: abundant native fish runs and coastal waterways that meet water quality standards.
- Oregon has a record of success: The overall quality of Oregon's coastal waters has been improving for many years, and is continuing to do so in most areas.
- As we continue to work with EPA and NOAA, we also will work with land managers and local communities to ensure we find the right solutions.
- Oregon's approach of tailoring pollution-prevention methods for local landowners increases buy-in, compliance and results.
- Voluntary measures are an important element of Oregon's forestry management program and Oregon will work to be clear on documenting those measures and reporting on their success.
- Disapproval of the Oregon program could mean a cut in federal funding to coastal communities as well as two state agencies. That funding is important element of how coastal communities are addressing water quality and other resources issues, including planning for hazards.
- Oregon intends to submit an approvable coastal zone management plan for forestry by January 2017. This effort will require the focused attention of coastal communities, forest landowners, and several state and federal agencies.

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